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USSR: The manned Soyuz spacecraft, launched yesterday morning from the Tyuratam space center, appears to be operating normally.

Shortly after the launch, TASS announced that a two-day mission is planned in earth's orbit and that the flight will include checks of the spacecraft's operation as well as limited scientific and earth resources experiments. The Soviets probably have a primary interest in testing changes made in the Soyuz spacecraft since their last manned flight in 1971. An unmanned Soyuz launched last June was believed to be a test of modifications to the spacecraft.

It has now been more than two years since the Soviets last put cosmonauts into space. In June 1971, the Soyuz 11 spacecraft spent about three weeks in orbit linked to a Salyut space station, but all three cosmonauts died in a re-entry accident. [REDACTED]

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A successful mission now will give a much needed boost to Soviet manned space efforts and will help demonstrate their competence in space prior to the joint US-USSR space mission scheduled for 1975. [REDACTED]

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ICELAND-UK: Reykjavik's decision yesterday to break diplomatic relations if London does not withdraw its frigates by 3 October from waters claimed by Iceland will lead to a further hardening of Reykjavik's position in the cod war and on the future of the US-manned Icelandic Defense Force.

The cabinet acted after a special maritime court in Reykjavik considered an incident on 22 September between an Icelandic Coast Guard vessel and a British frigate. Another incident occurred yesterday, apparently just after the delivery of the Icelandic ultimatum.

The British are not expected to yield to the Icelanders, but they may offer a counterproposal through which they could save face and avoid a break. In response to NATO Secretary General Luns' personal intervention in the fishing rights dispute earlier this month, the British acknowledged that a more flexible policy was required.

The ultimatum will expire on the same day that Icelandic Foreign Minister Agustsson is scheduled to arrive in Washington to begin formal negotiations on the defense force. The cod war has strengthened the hand of Icelandic opponents of the force; Agustsson's efforts to preserve it on a reduced scale will be more difficult than ever.

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UK: Labor Party leader Harold Wilson has initiated a series of talks about the EC with other European socialist parties, primarily in an effort to fend off growing anti-market sentiment in his party.

Wilson met in London late last week with a delegation of French Socialists led by Francois Mitterand. The two men discussed Wilson's pledge to "renegotiate" the terms of EC entry if his party comes to power. Wilson said that a future Labor government would make every effort to reform and reduce the common agricultural policy (CAP) and try to get a better deal on other agricultural issues. Mitterand responded that he was "sympathetic" to Wilson's views because the CAP also hurts French industrial workers and he remarked that each member of the EC should set its own priorities and fight for them.

Wilson told Mitterand that he felt a target date of 1980 for an EC monetary union was not feasible and a Labor government would try to stretch the timetable. Labor, he said, would also try to restrict free capital movements within the EC because Labor's plans for restructuring the economy would demand massive amounts of capital. Mitterand opposed this and stressed that the UK would encounter strong resistance from the other EC members to such a proposal.

Wilson is planning a series of meetings with other European Socialist parties--he meets next month with the Dutch and the Germans--all of whom are more pro-EC than the Labor Party. Wilson probably will cite this pro-EC stand by his European counterparts at the party's annual meeting next week, during which left-wing and anti-EC forces are likely to attract more support than they did last year. The recent annual convention of the Trades Union Congress voted to reject participation in EC institutions now and to continue its opposition to EC membership. Moreover, by these contacts with other socialists, Wilson is hoping to enhance his own personal standing among them.

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ETHIOPIA: The Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) has highlighted its latest round of terrorism against the Addis Ababa government with a dramatic attack in Asmara.

Yesterday several ELF terrorists opened fire with automatic weapons for about an hour in various parts of the city, including areas around several important Ethiopian military and government buildings. The ELF apparently had not singled out any specific targets. A few soldiers and civilians were killed and several were wounded, including one US citizen.

The attack, which occurred on Ethiopia's most important religious holiday, was clearly intended to embarrass the Ethiopian Government. It also probably was designed to demonstrate to local residents that the insurgents could carry out threats of violence made in ELF leaflets distributed in Asmara the day before.

The recent upsurge in ELF activity--including the ambush earlier this month of the deputy commander of Ethiopian troops in Eritrea Province--indicate that the insurgents have regained much of the momentum lost during the two-year-long internecine struggle. Although the bloody rift between ELF factions continues, rebel ranks recently have been augmented by disgruntled students, and sympathetic Muslim countries continue to provide the ELF with arms and economic support.

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Cuba: Fidel Castro is expected to give a major speech tonight eulogizing the late Chilean President Allende. He probably will take this occasion to condemn both the US and the instigators of the recent coup.

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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